

**REMARKS**

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed to amend the specification to indicate its relationship to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/524,042, filed March 13, 2000, and U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/204,702, filed May 16, 2000.

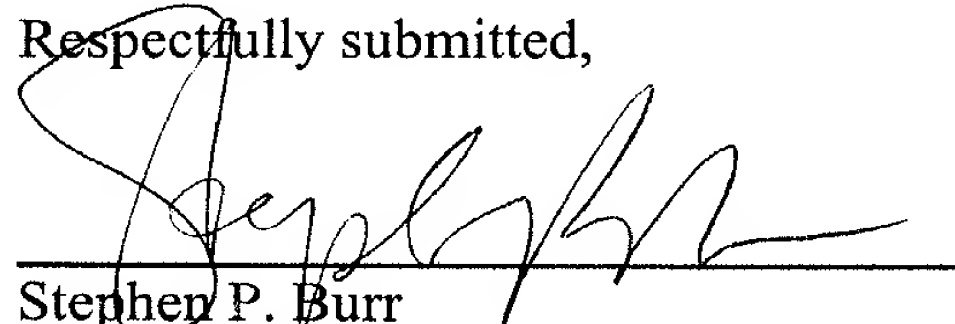
Priority was claimed to each of these earlier filed applications on the Application Transmittal sheet filed September 28, 2000, and in the Declaration filed January 12, 2001.

If the Examiner believes that contact with applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, he is herein requested to call applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

December 10, 2001  
Date

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Stephen P. Burr  
Reg. No. 32,970

SPB/eav

BURR & BROWN  
P.O. Box 7068  
Syracuse, NY 13261-7068

Customer No.: 025191  
Telephone: (315) 233-8300  
Facsimile: (315) 233-8320